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SPOTLIGHT ON W. GERMAN REICH

DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

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FIVE QUESTIONS FOR ADENAUER

Here are five questions for Dr Konrad Adenauer, West German Chancellor:

1. Are you aware of the fact that Professor Theodor Oberlaender, Refugee Minister in your cabinet, was active in the nazi movement from 1923 to 1945; that he was a valuable agent of the nazi intelligence service; and that there is strong evidence that he participated in pogroms? When are you going to sack him?

(New details on Oberlaender, the murderous minister, on page 182)

2. Are you aware of the fact that Dr Gerhard Schroeder, Minister of the Interior in your cabinet and former nazi storm trooper, has applied to the courts for the banning of the West German Association of Nazi Persecutees, main organisation of those Germans who stood up to Hitler? When are you going to sack him?

(Details of the ban move below)

3. Are you aware of the fact that at least 1000 judges in West Germany served as judges in nazi special courts which imposed thousands of death sentences on opponents of the nazi regime? When are you going to sack them, and order proceedings against those of them who committed war crimes?

(Details of the case of three of these judges who hanged a Pole for giving cigarettes to an escaping British POW on page 188)

4. Are you aware of the fact that leading West German industrialists, to whom you send fulsome birthday greetings, are convicted war criminals? When are you going to carry out the Potsdam decisions to eliminate their power?

(Details of the career of Friedrich Flick, West Germany's No. 2 industrialist, on page 184)

5. Are you aware that the best thing you could do for Germany, Europe and the world would be to resign forthwith, taking with you your gang of nazi ministers, judges and officials?

BAN ON RESISTANCE FIGHTERS

The West German Minister of the Interior, former nazi storm trooper Gerhard Schroeder, has opened court proceedings for the banning of the VVN, the Association of Nazi Persecutees. The VVN is the main West German organisation of anti-fascist resistance fighters; most of its members spent long terms in Hitler's concentration camps and prisons.

On October 23rd the West German Minister of the Interior applied to the West German Federal Administrative Court, stationed in West Berlin, for the banning of the organisation. The application is based upon Article 9 of the West German Constitution, which declares illegal "organisations of a criminal character, or which are directed against constitutional order, or which are directed against the idea of international understanding." Minister Schroeder claimed that the organisation must be banned, since it numbered amongst its leading members persons who had been members of the prohibited Communist Party. This is not unlikely, since

(cont. on next page)

(cont. from front page)

the Communists provided the overwhelming majority of the anti-fascist resistance fighters in nazi Germany.

West German newspapers suggested that the real reason for the ban application at this time was the fact that the VVN has recently played a prominent part in uncovering the past record of Theodor Oberlaender, West German Refugee Minister, who was a prominent nazi. (Details of the Oberlaender case on this page).

The West German newspaper "Fraenkische Presse", which is under Social Democratic influence, stated on October 27th:

"Rome's Caesars banned the Christians, Charlemagne banned the heathens, Bismarck banned the Social Democrats, Hitler banned all parties except his party (which was also Dr Schroeder's party). The powers that be in Bonn apparently consider their bans as a simple continuation of this historic series... Even if Communist undermining in the VVN can be proved, we must remember that the members of this organisation were opponents of Hitler, and victims of the nazi system. Dr. Schroeder, Minister of the Interior, however, wore the swastika badge from the year 1937. The year 1945 meant for Dr Schroeder the end of his fight for his Fuehrer, but Hitler's victims remained Schroeder's victims . . ."

The Christian Democratic "Rheinische Post" on October 27th gave its support to the ban application, stating: "In any case, the judges in the Federal Republic are genuinely independent, and nobody, not even a minister, can force them to pronounce a ban if they think it unjust. This applies too to the judges of the Federal Administrative Court."

Research in the files of the nazi Ministry of Justice has just revealed that one of the judges of the West German Federal Administrative Court which will hear the case against the VVN is a certain Dr Lentz, who during the nazi period served as a presiding judge of the Berlin Special Court, a court constituted especially by the nazis to deal with political offences and "acts directed against the war effort of the German people".

THE CASE OF THE MURDEROUS MINISTER

Biographical Notes on Adenauer Cabinet Member

(What has gone before: In the October 9th issue GERMAN REPORT gave some details of the past record of Professor Theodor Oberlaender, today Refugee Minister in the West German Government. Records available at that date showed that Oberlaender had held the rank of Captain in Hitler's brown-shirted Storm Troops, had been "Reichsfuehrer" of the "League of Germans in the East" and had served as an officer of the Nightingale Battalion, a special gang of Ukrainian quislings responsible for mass murders in the city of Lvov in July 1941. In the October 23rd issue GERMAN REPORT told how Stefan Bandera, notorious Ukrainian Quisling, and one of Oberlaender's war-time collaborators, had been poisoned with potassium cyanide: it was suggested that Oberlaender might have had a hand in Bandera's death, since he knew too much about the past. Now read on below.)

At a press conference in East Berlin on October 22nd, new details on Oberlaender's murky past were disclosed. Official files from the nazi Ministry of Education showed that in 1936 Oberlaender himself had filled out a questionnaire stating that he had been an active participant in Hitler's first putsch, staged in Munich on November 9th 1923. An official document issued by the Reich Leadership of the Nazi Party stated: "he was a member of the movement as far back as 1923, took part in the march through Munich on November 9th 1923, and has applied for the award of the Order of Blood".

The files show that after 1933, when Oberlaender was officially working as a professor at the universities in Koenigsberg and Greifswald, he was in fact an active agent of the nazi Intelligence Service, the "Abwehr", headed by Admiral Canaris. His main task was Fifth Column work in Poland and the Baltic states. One testimonial in his personal file from the nazi Ministry of Education states:

"Professor Oberlaender has been working for years on national-political tasks in the Germanic east, and has done successful work in the cultural frontier-struggle against Poland and the Baltic states."

Another document in the files, this time a hand-written application signed by Oberlaender on December 20th 1937, speaks of "my chief, Admiral Canaris".

On November 13th 1937 the Reich Ministry of War wrote to the Reich Ministry of Education, stating:

"The Intelligence Department of the Reich War Ministry intends to employ Reserve Lieutenant Oberlaender on special tasks until December 31st this year. The nature of these tasks makes it necessary for him to work in the building of the Reich War Ministry . . ."

Two days later, on November 15th 1937, the Reich War Ministry wrote a second letter asking whether Professor Oberlaender had yet been transferred to Berlin. "It must be emphasised that the Reich War Ministry attaches particular importance to this transfer, so that the important work with Professor Oberlaender can continue without friction."

There are dozens of similar letters. On July 7th 1939, for instance, the Intelligence Department of the Reich War Ministry applied once again, stating:

"Because of extremely urgent measures, Lieutenant Oberlaender is called up for further duty from July 22nd to August 18th in the Intelligence Department of Army District VIII."

Army District VIII covered the southern portion of the German-Polish frontier, and preparations were in full swing for the invasion of Poland on September 1st 1939. The Intelligence Department of Army District VIII, to which Oberlaender was attached, was responsible for the faking of an alleged Polish attack on the German radio station at Gleiwitz, which Hitler utilised as the final reason for launching World War Two.

That Professor Oberlaender was a staunch nazi at this period may be seen from a speech which he delivered at Greifswald University in 1939, shortly after Hitler had annexed the Memel territory from Lithuania. Oberlaender stated:

"Fifteen years of Lithuanian oppression have ended. The Jews are already leaving Memel. Today the new SA battalions will march through Memel."

Early in 1941 Professor Oberlaender was given a new task, that of organising a pro-nazi quisling legion composed of Ukrainian nationalists. Details are given in the book "Germany and the Ukraine", pub-

lished in 1958 by the Osteuropa Institut, Munich, which states:

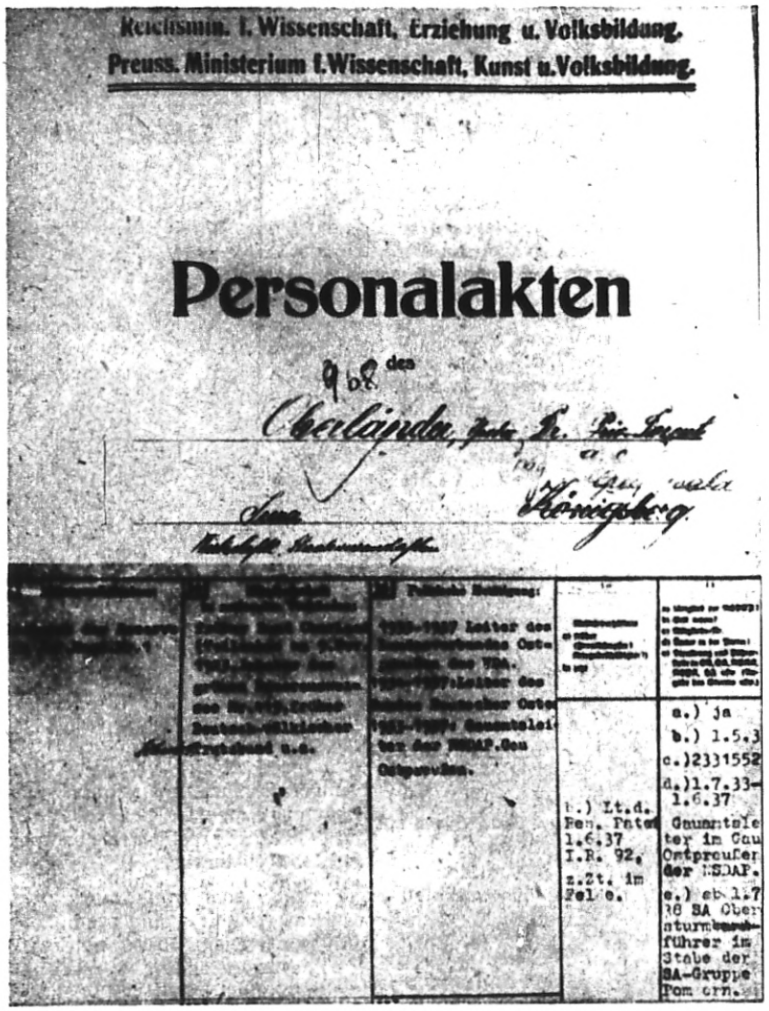
"The negotiations for the formation of the legion were conducted by Professor Hans Koch, Professor Theodor Oberlaender, and Professor Georg Gerullis . . . By the beginning of 1941 the relevant officials of the German Wehrmacht had given permission for the formation of the Ukrainian Legion. First Lieutenant Professor Dr T. Oberlaender was appointed supervisory officer and German commander of the 'Nightingale' group."

On June 30th 1941 the "Nightingale" unit, of which Oberlaender was German commander, marched into Lvov, and in the next six days at least 3000 Polish and Jewish inhabitants of the city, including dozens of prominent Polish professors, were murdered. The murders were committed by the men of the Nightingale unit and by Ukrainian nationalists organised in a rapidly raised militia. Dr Philip Friedmann, today Professor at Columbia University, New York, who was an eyewitness, described the scene in his book "The Extermination of the Jews of Lvov", published in Lodz in 1945. He wrote:

"From June 30th to July 3rd Lvov was the scene of cruel and bloody massacres. The Germans were joined by Ukrainian nationalists and by a so-called Ukrainian militia organised by the German occupation forces. The pogrom began with a Jew-hunt in the streets. . . Men were dragged away, whole families, children. . . In the Lvov area the Germans beat all previous records for bestiality and murder . . . About 2000 Jews were dragged to the courtyard of 59 Pelczynska Street, where they were tortured sadistically . . . The survivors were shot in the Biloborski Wood near Lvov."

At the Berlin press conference on October 22nd a pile of affidavits from eye-witnesses of the Lvov murders were made available to the press. Several of the witnesses identified the Nightingale unit, commanded by Oberlaender, as having been directly concerned in the murders.

On September 30th 1959, Professor Oberlaender held a press conference in Bonn, the West German capital, at which he attempted to deny the charges made against him. He admitted that he had been an officer of the Nightingales, and then stated; "Not a single shot was fired by members of the Nightingale unit from July 1st to July 6th . . . I have no knowledge of any illegal act by soldiers of this unit. I know nothing about any such acts by members of any other unit."


Reichsmin. f. Wissenschaft, Erziehung u. Volksbildung.
Preuss. Ministerium f. Wissenschaft, Kunst u. Volksbildung.

Personalakten

geb. den

Oberlaender, Prof. Dr. Dir. Inst.

Königsberg

a.) ja
b.) 1.5.3
c.) 2331552
d.) 1.7.33–1.6.37 Gauamtsleiter in Gau Ostpreußen der NSDAP.
e.) ab 1.7 38 SA Obersturmbannführer im Stabe der SA-Gruppe Pom ern.

1.) Lt.d. Res. Inf. 1.6.37 I.R. 92, z.Zt. im Feld.

(translation)

Reich Ministry for Science, Education and Schools
Prussian Ministry for Science, Art and Schools

PERSONAL FILE

of

Oberlaender, Theodor, Dr

Koenigsberg, Greifswald, Prague

Law, Economics, Government Science

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(extracts from two questionnaires filled out by Oberlaender)

12. **Military Rank:** Reserve Lieutenant, Infantry Regiment No. 1
14. **Membership in Nationalist Organisations:** Formerly Bund Oberland (participation on November 9th 1923, holder of green identity card No. 419) former member of Deutsch-völkischer Schutz und Trutzbund, etc.
16. **Political Activity:** 1933–1937 Leader of East Prussian Provincial Branch of Association of Germans Abroad.
1934–1937 Head of the League of Germans in the East.
1933–1937: Gauamt Leader of the Nazi Party, Gau East Prussia.

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10. **Military Rank:** Lieutenant of Reserve, was commissioned on June 1st 1937. At present on active service.
11. **a) Member of Nazi Party?** Yes. **b) Since when?** May 1st 1933. **c) Membership No.?** 2,331,552. **d) Party office?** July 1st 1933 – June 1st 1937 Gauamt Leader of the Nazi Party, Gau East Prussia. **e) Rank in SA, SS etc.?** From July 1st 1938 SA Lieutenant on staff of SA Group Pomerania.

Foxy Friedrich Flick

The Life and Good Times of a War Criminal

In July 1958 a very famous old man sent an admiring telegram to another old man, not so well-known but also very, very powerful:

"I send you heart-felt wishes for luck on the occasion of your 75th birthday. You have led a great and amazing life of achievement, in long and self-sacrificing toil, despite all the blows of destiny against our people and yourself personally. May you have many more years of health and strength in which you can rejoice in your successes and your work.

Adenauer, Federal Chancellor."

These hearty words were sent to the man described by "Time" Magazine as follows:

". . . foxy Friedrich Flick, 75, a convicted war criminal who lost 80% of his steel fortune at war's end, bought a 37½% interest in Daimler-Benz between 1954 and 1957. Flick has driven Mercedes so fast and furiously that his stock has risen in value from $20 million to $200 million, and he has rocketed back to become Germany's No. 2 industrialist (after Alfried Krupp)." (Sept. 7th 1959)

What have been the achievements and attainments of this truly remarkable old man whose name is linked to steel factories, Nobel Dynamite and Mercedes automobiles?

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Born in a little town east of Cologne, the son of a dealer in minetimber, Friedrich Flick soon showed his financial prowess in a variety of ways. After getting a position on the board of directors of the Charlottenhuette foundry, getting himself exempted from military service (during World War I) and getting a wife with a dowry of 30,000 marks, he proceeded to buy up shares in the company for which he worked, until he was strong enough to make himself general director of the firm.

After World War I he became Germany's scrap iron king, and purchased his way to control of foundries and mines in Silesia. He then used the inflation of 1923, which caused so much misery for the German workers, to manipulate a fortune for himself, buying property with borrowed money and repaying the debts with devalued paper.

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In 1926 German industrial leaders founded the United Steelworks (Vereinigte Stahlwerke AG), which combined half the steel and 20% of the coal output of all Germany. By clever manipulation, Flick gained 51% control of the new trust and became one of the leading figures in European industry.

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Flick always tried to have important friends in the many governments which succeeded each other in Berlin during the Weimar period. He made it a practice to give financial support liberally — not to any one party, but to all of them (except the Communists, naturally). He gave the right-wing German National Party 100,000 marks, Bruening's Catholic Centre Party got 150,000 marks, General von Schleicher (Hitler's predecessor) and the Social Democrats each got simjlar sums. Flick also supported General Hindenburg in his presidential campaign with 450,000 marks.

Flick did not think much of the nazis at first, it would seem, for he only gave them 50,000 marks. But then, after attending a meeting of leading industrialists with Hitler in Dusseldorf on January 27th 1932, he apparently saw that nazi and Flick interests were similar, for he joined a group known later as the "Group of Friends of Himmler" (Hitler's SS Chief), paying 100,000 marks down and then the same sum annually to a fund for "Special Expenses of the SS". He urged Hindenburg to appoint Hitler chancellor and contributed another 100,000 marks to the nazi campaign expenses in March 1933. Later, in 1940, he gave Goering 400,000 to 500,000 marks for "social purposes" and then again 4,000,000 marks in 1943. In 1938 he had also become a member of the Nazi Party.

These investments paid dividends. Already by December 5th 1933 he was able to welcome a nazi delegation to one of his factories with the following words:

"...I consider it a sign of very special confidence that you, most honourable Herr Minister, and you, gentlemen from the War Ministry, are willing to entrust these plants with tasks whose importance for our fatherland inspires us all so greatly. You may rest assured that my colleagues and I will do everything towards fulfilling the tasks assigned to our plants to the best of our ability."

(from the files of Flick's steel factory in Doehlen)

Four months later, Flick had his first arms orders — 3000 C-10 bombs, 10,000 shells for light field howitzers, 200 barrels for anti-tank guns and 300 for light trench mortars, 60,000 grenades.

These orders, plus many for the navy and the Luftwaffe, grew so rapidly that Flick began to edge "Cannon King" Krupp, even in the latter's specialty of heavy artillery gun barrels. His profits grew accordingly. He always cultivated his connections; Flick later admitted that he was "a commissioner for Goering" and this also helped him in finding a new source of wealth — "Aryanised" Jewish property. He was able to purchase for a song the Luebeck Blast Furnace Works and a large network of lignite mines in Saxony, both of which had been Jewish-owned.

With the war came important new opportunities for Flick. Firstly, the production of war material now became a source of astronomical profits, and secondly, as the Hitler armies blitzed forward, Flick's agents were always close behind, grabbing raw materials and plants in Poland, Denmark, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. In the Soviet Union he again cooperated with Hermann Goering and created companies called the "Berg- und Huettenwerke Ost GmbH" (Eastern Mining and Foundry Co., Ltd.) and the "Dnjeper-Stahl-GmbH" (Dnieper Steel, Ltd.) to run Soviet steel plants seized by the nazi armies. His jobs as "Wehrwirtschaftsfuehrer" ("military economy leader") and member of the "Russian Committee of the German Economy" also helped him to acquire the big Vairogs waggon factory in Riga.

The use of slave labourers was a third war-time opportunity which Flick used to full advantage. In his Central German steel plants alone, 52% of the workers were forced labourers (14,500) — altogether he used 40,000 foreign slave-labourers, prisoners of war and concentration camp inmates.

A letter from Herr Knueppel, manager of a Flick plant, to Flick

director Gerhard Bruns on September 25th 1943 shows something of the methods employed:

"My colleague Herr Dr Dreschinsky will bring you an evacuation transport from my factory, the Prussia Foundry. They are a motley assembly of people: a prize sampling from the Ukraine...

"It was impossible to avoid taking disabled and old people with the lot. They can probably also be used in the camp, however... If you do not want to have them either, please send the transport further to Wasenstadt."

(From Bruns' files found in Doehlen steel plant)

When Flick was brought to trial after the war, a witness testified:

"The forced labourers in the Lauchhammer plant at Groeditz were punished with 20 to 25 strokes with a stick for the least bit of carelessness or if they could not fulfill their production quotas because of exhaustion."

There were 950 concentration camp prisoners from all over Europe in this plant. Guarded always by SS men, they worked 12 hours a day and were fed 9 oz of bread, 1/6 oz fat and a pint of soup daily. In one of the recurrent typhus epidemics 300 prisoners were allowed to die; on April 17th 1945 SS men killed 186 sick prisoners who had worked in the Groeditz steel plant, managed by Flick's oldest son Otto Ernst Flick.

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Flick, not fooled by nazi war reports, prepared early for defeat. He divided most of his property between his sons (keeping all control himself) and covered his tracks by shuffling all his firms into a complicated new set-up. Towards the end he also had his aides dust off the records of his financial contributions to the parties of the pre-Hitler era, and took a young man from the War Ministry into his Board of Directors in the hopes that this man's perfect knowledge of English might be of use with the Allies.

Despite all his precautions, the war ended badly for Flick, for the centre of his industrial empire was in Poland and East Germany. Adding insult to injury, the Americans arrested him on June 13th 1945 and tried him and other leaders of the firm in Nuremberg from April 19th till December 22nd 1947.

Flick was found guilty of 1.) "spoliation and plunder of occupied territories", 2.) "with knowledge of the criminal activities of the SS contributing funds and influence to its support" and 3.) "enslavement and deportation to slave labour on a gigantic scale of members of the civilian populations... enslavement of concentration camp inmates... and the use of prisoners of war in war operations and work having a direct relation to war operations".

Friedrich Flick today

("Trials of War Criminals before the Nuernberg Military Tribunals" — US Govt. Printing Office, Washington 1952 — p. 1194-1223)

The sentence was seven years. Otto Steinbrink, Flick's deputy, an SS general and nazi coal and iron chief in occupied West Europe, got five years, another director got 2½ years and all others were freed.

Flick was sent to the comfortable Landsberg Prison, where he worked as librarian and helped recoup his fortune by meeting twice a week with his cousin (and right hand man) who brought him various directors of his firms disguised as lawyers.

On August 24th 1950 there was a general amnesty which freed many war criminals, including Friederich Flick. Under the post-war decartelisation decisions he had been forced to sell most of his coal interests, he had also lost 2/3rds of his property in the East, but by the end of 1953 he had liquid assets estimated at more than 250,000,000 marks, partly in foreign currencies, which put him in a strong position. The old coal and steel man decided to branch out into other industries — new for him but all promising lots of profits.

He bought, bargained and manipulated his way into a leading position in the Feldmuehle Paper and Celluloid Works, largest paper factory on the European continent and heavily engaged in plastics production.

Then he bought a majority of shares in the Buderus'sche Ironworks in Wetzlar, the biggest West German foundry, with 11,700 employes. This deal brought him control of the Krauss-Maffei Co., West Germany's most modern locomotive factory.

Another important acquisition was 16% of Dynamit AG, formerly Alfred Nobel & Co., famous both for Nobel Prizes and for explosives production. An equally ominous purchase was a uranium concession in Bavaria. Besides these, Flick owned many firms in the iron, steel and scrap branches, factories for agricultural and other kinds of machinery, and a miscellaneous collection of other firms, some too well concealed to prove ownership completely.

Flick also spread into other countries. On August 10th 1955 the "Handelsblatt" in Dusseldorf, West Germany, reported that he had become the first German monopolist to win a position in post-war French industry — he had obtained a 20% share in the important ore, steel and wire company, Société des Aciéries et Tréfileries de Neuves-Maisons-Châtillons. Then, in April 1956, he obtained the controlling shares in the Belgian steel company "Société Métallurgique Hainaut-Sambre" which produces almost 20% of Belgium's steel. Many Belgians were greatly upset. Prime Minister van Acker spoke against "the participation of people condemned as war criminals" and a deputy told Parliament that it was revolting "when such accomplices of the Hitler regime come with their money into the country to play the part of ruler." The storm seems to have been calmed by West German assurances that Flick had really been "an opponent of the Hitler regime".

("Neue Zuercher Zeitung" June 29th 1956.)

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Flick's biggest and most sensational grab, however, was Daimler-Benz, the makers of Mercedes cars. Suddenly, in a surprise move, he appeared as the firm's third largest owner when, at a share-holders' meeting on July 18th 1955, Flick's cousin Konrad Kaletsch popped up with 25% of the shares in his pocket.

Flick soon made an agreement with Dr Fritz Koenecke, General Director of the firm, and gradually increased his holdings till he was undisputed ruler of the huge and famous limousine producers.

Not content with this, he decided to expand into the small car field, and in 1958, through Daimler-Benz,

he bought up 88% of the poor but promising "Auto Union GmbH" in Ingolstadt, producer of the DKW 600 cars. Thus, Flick controls the largest automob le manufacturer in Europe, with a line ranging from small cars (and quite possibly motorcycles and motorscooters) through the Mercedes limousines to heavy trucks. In 1958, when 84,000 Daimler employees produced about 100,000 cars alone, turnover amounted to 3,200,000,000 marks.

The firm, which exports heavily to 136 countries, has a large network of foreign subsidiaries and associate companies, including Mercedes-Benz do Brasil S. A., which produces about 15,000 vehicles in Brazil every year, Mercedes-Benz Argentina S. A., Mercedes-Benz Australia Pty. Ltd. (Melbourne) and the Tata Locomotive and Engineering Co., Ltd. in Bombay. (Others are in Canada and New Zealand.). Sales in the United States have been handled by the Curtiss-Wright (aircraft) Corporation, with whom there is also a contract for development of aircraft motors, and with the Studebaker-Packard Corporation, in which Daimler-Benz has a large number of shares.

Flick is also back in the armaments field. His Daimler-Benz firm, for example, produces diesel motors for minesweepers, jeep-type military vehicles and an armoured car called Unimog which is advertised as "a multifunctional vehicle ideal even in an atomic war" ***("Frankfurter Allgemeine" — June 7th 1958).***

Just as in nazi times, Flick and his firms have found it necessary to butter up the right people in the government to land big contracts. The past few years have seen a series of bribery scandals in West Germany, and Flick's Mercedes-Benz has been in the middle of the juiciest ones.

First there was the Kilb case, where Daimler-Benz had bribed Adenauer's aide Dr Hans Kilb to swing contracts and government publicity its way. Before this came to court another case broke. The Army's military supplies purchaser — a Colonel Loeffelholz — had steered contracts for trucks, jeeps and Unimogs to Daimler-Benz — he had been encouraged in his decisions with dinners, nights in luxurious hotels and the use of limousines — all paid for by Daimler-Benz and then subtracted from taxable income as business costs. Loeffelholz had not been partial only to Daimler-Benz — Krupp, Ford and other firms were also involved. But Flick and his subsidiaries have been the most prominent in these scandals of corruption and hurried rearmament.

The old leopard had not changed his spots.

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What happened to Flick's lost properties? In the German Democratic Republic (as in Poland), they were expropriated along with all others belonging to war criminals. They are now property of the people, untouched by corruption scandals, and producing not for war and Flick's private profits but for peace and the benefit of everyone.

Just a Reminder – Adenauer's Generals

Every single West German general and admiral served Hitler. Here are potted biographies of just a few of them:

General Friedrich Foertsch

Under Hitler: General Staff Chief of the 18th Army and of the "Courland" Army Group in the Soviet Union.

Today: After serving ten years of a twenty-five year war crimes sentence in the Soviet Union, he was released and was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff, Planning, at NATO Headquarters in Fontainebleau.

General Heinrich Hax

Under Hitler: General Staff Chief of the 56th Army Corps, awarded the Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves by Hitler. Sentenced for war crimes by the Soviet Union to a 25 year sentence, but released after 10 years in October 1955.

Today: Major General, Deputy Commanding General of the 3rd Corps in Koblenz.

General Adolf Heusinger

Under Hitler: Lieutenant General, head of the Operational Department of the Army General Staff. Planned the invasions of Yugoslavia, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, among others.

Today: Inspector General and Chief of the Leadership Staff of the West German armed forces.

General Max Ibel

Under Hitler: Flew over England and France as Commodore of Fighter Squadron, for which he was decorated with the Knight's Cross on August 22nd 1940.

Today: Brigadier General in command of the fighter planes of the 1st Air Defence Division in Munich.

General Martin Harlinghausen

Under Hitler: Lieutenant General. His part in the air attacks on Britain and France earned him the Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves on January 30th 1941.

Today: Major General in command of the Luftwaffe (Northern Group) in Muenster.

General Hans Speidel

Under Hitler: Chief of Staff with the nazi commander in occupied Paris. Chief of Staff of the 8th Army in the Soviet Union and the Army Group "B" in France.

Today: Commander of the NATO Land Forces in Central Europe.

Admiral Karl-Adolf Zenker

Under Hitler: As Admiralty Staff Officer with the Commander of the Western Naval Group he helped plan the invasions of Denmark, Norway and the Netherlands. Destroyer Commander from 1941 on.

Today: Flotilla Admiral in command of the North Sea Fleet and of the NATO Southern North Sea Area.

SPEIDEL & IRON CROSS MEN

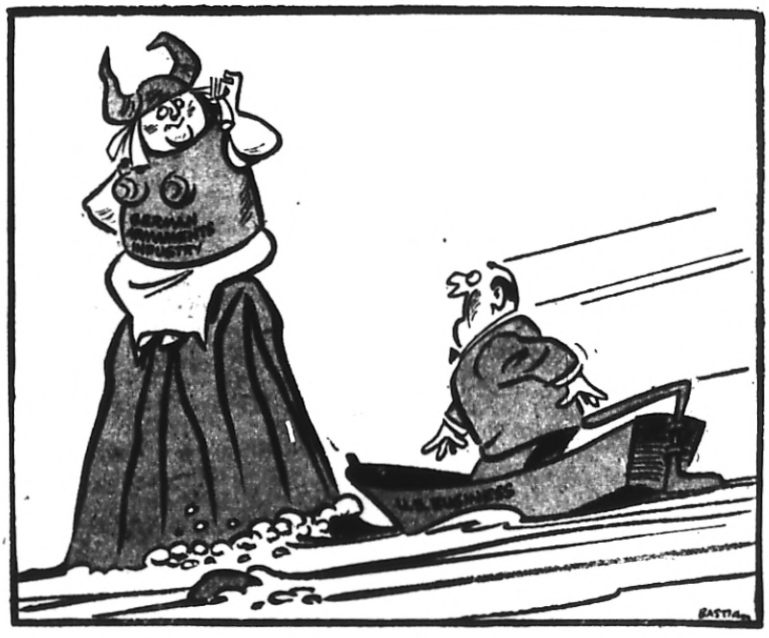
Top West German army officers Hans Speidel and Adolf Heusinger sent greetings to a meeting of one-time nazi officers — all wearers of Hitler's Knight's Cross, the highest German military decoration of World War II.

The nearly 400 German and Austrian officers who held their annual gathering at Regensburg in late October included Sepp Dietrich, once commander of the SS unit "Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler" and later condemned to death as a war criminal, Archduke Josef of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire and Major General Weiss, leading official of the West German Defence Ministry.

Major General Max Pemsel, today Commander of the West German 2nd Army Corps, called in his speech to the meeting for a "spirit of military preparedness which, supplied with weapons, could defy the whole world". "I oppose disarmament", said Pemsel, who was formerly Chief of Staff of Hitler's 7th Army and commanded troops in France, Italy and the Soviet Union during the war.

U.S. Paper: "W. German Arms Shock"

We reproduce on this page a cartoon and the full text of an editorial from the influential United States newspaper "San Francisco Chronicle" of October 15th.



The story from Bonn that United States and German armament firms are buddying up to one another was, almost literally, a bombshell. While the American public has been buying Volkswagens and Mercedes-Benzes, big deals have been cooking: Nothing illegal, just prudent positioning for the long term.

Perhaps the biggest shock comes from the reminder that the Germans will soon be building hundreds of F-104 Starfighter aircraft. This old reliable Lockheed jet has brought a gleam into the monocles of the German defense force planners, and they have acquired a license from Lockheed to build F-104s in the Heinkel and Messerschmitt factories. This probably means a cutback in Heinkel and Messerschmitt production of bicycles and midget cars, but who would ever think of giving consumer vehicles higher priority than the new Luftwaffe?

General Electric is pitching in to assure the Germans that they have jet engines to power the Starfighter, and as part of the deal GE gets a chunk of the Bayerische Motorenwerke of Munich, one of the Nazi war machine's big suppliers.

These and other co-operative arrangements reported by Arthur J. Olsen, a New York Times correspondent, seem to indicate a change in the policy of West Germany, which up to now has avoided a big build-up of German arms production facilities, preferring instead to buy as much as possible abroad. If the policy is changing, and if, as Correspondent Olsen says, the current trend will soon carry West Germany to the limits of its treaty restrictions on arms manufacture, particularly in the field of missiles and armored weaponry, we are justified in our disquiet.

It's necessary to be of a certain age to remember the beginnings of an earlier shift of German industry from consumer to military goods; that was around 1934, and the Krupps were then the symbols of the regrowth of German competence in arms production. That Hitlerian move to rearm gave alarm — but, alas, not sufficient alarm — to the other Western European nations.

There will be a recurrence of such alarms now. Already in Britain the fear of West Germany's becoming once more an arsenal has embittered public opinion against the Germans. And, of course, the circumstantial force of the American stock purchases in West German armament-making firms will be eagerly seized upon by Soviet propaganda.

By the Brussels Treaty of 1954, Germany agreed to make no atomic, chemical or biological weapons whatever, nor any long-range or guided missiles, warships or bomber aircraft. Short of these categories, the Germans may legally engage in armament production. The American firms that have made tieups with them are perhaps not to be blamed for looking out for themselves and for profits. It leaves a sour taste in the mouth, nevertheless. The situation is precisely the sort into which a duly constituted United States Department of Peace, as urged by a group of scientists the other day, would properly inquire. Lacking such a useful department, we can at least hope that the State Department will abandon its attitude of indifference toward the situation and begin to take seriously some of its implications.

OK for West German Rockets

The last obstacle to West German guided missile production was officially removed on October 21st by the Western European Union, meeting in London.

The ban on rocket production had been contained in the Paris Treaties, signed in October 1954, which had provided for West German sovereignty and permitted her to rearm and to enter the NATO and the Western European Union. This had meant the go-ahead signal for the creation of a strong West German army, navy and air force under the command of many old nazi officers.

The Paris Treaties, however, expressly laid down that West Germany was forbidden to "manufacture in its territory any atomic weapons, chemical weapons or biological weapons . . . long-range missiles, guided missiles . . . warships of more than 3,000 tons . . . bomber aircraft for strategic purposes."

The latest step by the Western European Union ending the ban on guided missiles is the first official breach in the list of prohibitions.

Military commentators in Bonn pointed out that now the rocket ban had been cancelled there was no logical reason why West Germany should not now seek permission to make atom bombs and poison gas.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

As I write these lines I have on my table a dusty file, a file from the nazi "Reich Ministry of Justice" dated 1942.

The file tells the story of a young Pole who, in the year 1941 when his country was groaning under the German occupation, dared to help an escaping British prisoner of war. He gave the British prisoner six cigarettes and something to eat, and helped him on his way. Who the British soldier was, the file does not say, so he may have escaped. But the Pole was caught, dragged before a nazi "Special Court", sentenced to death, and hanged in front of his house.

It is a typical story of nazi repression and inhumanity. What makes it of interest for us today is the fact that the judges who sentenced the Pole to death are all today working again in senior posts as judges and public prosecutors in West Germany and West Berlin.

The guilty men were Judge Bommels, today Senate President in Saarbruecken Upper Provincial Court; Judge Hucklenbroich, today Director of Wuppertal Provincial Court; and Judge Goerner, today Senior Public Prosecutor in West Berlin.

The file number of the case is Sd 4 Ks 120/42, and these judges all signed the death sentence, which they delivered on April 24th 1942. Here, in the words of the official documents, are the details of the case of this Pole who helped allied soldiers to escape the nazis:

"The Pole Ludwig Bayer, from Altsee, Poznan District, born on February 18th 1916, gardener by trade, married, held prisoner on charges of anti-German activities . . . is sentenced to death for offences in two cases against Paragraph 1(3) of the Criminal Code for Poles . . .

"The accused, a Pole, has been employed since October 1940 as gardener on an estate near Poznan. In May or June 1941, when he was working in the garden, a British prisoner of war, fleeing in civilian clothes, appeared. The Englishman made himself understood mainly by signs, and asked the accused for cigarettes. The accused took the POW into his room and gave him six cigarettes and something to eat. After the Englishman had rested for about one and a half hours in the room he continued his flight, and the accused returned to work in the garden.

"On the night of September 27th 1941 two escaping Russian POWs appeared at the accused's dwelling. After making certain that he was a Pole they told him they were Russian POWs and had escaped from Torun camp. He took them both into his room, gave them something to eat, and hid them in the barn. They remained there until the evening, and then left, after the accused had given them several pieces of bread and butter . . .

"The accused states that he helped the POWs because he was sorry for them, and had not realised the seriousness of his offence. . .

"By his actions in helping the flight of the British and Russian POWs he has, in two cases, injured the well-being of the German people as defined in the Criminal Code for Poles.

"British and Russian POWs have repeatedly escaped in this district, and it has only been possible to recapture a small proportion of them. It may be assumed that the Polish population have helped them by hiding them, giving them food, and in other ways . . . It is not necessary to emphasise what a great danger is presented to the German population if British and particularly Russian POWs wander about here, and are given help by the Poles. Such activities on the part of the Poles, which injure the well-being and reputation, of the German people, must be met with the most severe penalties. Exemplary punishment is called for in the form of the death sentence . . . The sharpest measures must be taken when Poles indulge in the dangerous game of helping escaping POWs. The accused is therefore sentenced to death."

The Polish gardener, aged 26, was hanged in front of his house on May 22nd 1942 by the Gestapo. The three judges who sent him to the scaffold are back at work in West Germany.

And these three judges who I have named are by no means rare exceptions. Just as this issue of GERMAN REPORT was going to press, the Committee for German Unity held a press conference in East Berlin at which the names of 200 further nazi judges, now back in service in West Germany, were announced. On previous occasions the Committee has published the names of 800 such judges, so this brings the grand and dreadful total up to one thousand.

One thousand men who served in responsible positions in the nazi special courts, people's courts and military courts are now dispensing "justice" in Chancellor Adenauer's state. And I should like to emphasise that these gentlemen are not just harmless old magistrates who wiled away the Hitler period imposing parking fines or sending burglars to prison. They all of them worked in the special branches of the nazi judicial apparatus which dealt with resistance fighters both inside Germany and in the occupied countries of Europe: which applied Hitler's anti-Semitic legislation, and which kept the hangmen and the execution squads busy.

Let us just have a quick look at some of the newly-identified nazi judges who are back in circulation. There is, for instance, Dr Kraft, today judge of the West German Federal Court, the highest court in the country. On May 23rd 1938 he sent a Jewish merchant named Karl Theo Herzheim to prison for an offence against the Nuremberg Laws, the special anti-Semitic legislation. There is no record of what happened to Mr Herzheim later, but in all probability this sentence was the first step along the road to the gas chamber.

Dr Suhr, today Public Prosecutor in Hamburg, served during the war as prosecutor in the nazi special court in Poznan, occupied Poland. He demanded the death sentence on January 28th 1944 for a Polish woman, whose offence was that she had escaped from prison. The judges concurred, stating: "By escaping she damaged the well-being of the German people."

And so the lists go on. What sort of a government can it be which tolerates such judges?

Free Book on Nazi Judges

A listing of 800 nazi judges who are back at work in the West German courts has been published in book form by the Committee for German Unity. Copies of this book, in English, are available free on application to

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(This free offer does not apply to readers in the German Democratic Republic.)

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